45. The following table shows the details of work done by Party No. I during the two last seasons :—

Year.	Area estimated.	Test trees felled.	Number of Compartments formed.	Area for which *data* for the preparation of Working-Plans were collected.	Number of Maps and Tracings.	Total cost incurred.	Cost per Acre.
						Rs.	Rs. a. p.
1894-95 ...	89,640·12	3,352	20	89,640·12	57	23,156	0 4 1·6
1893-94 ...	1,35,406·19	840	28	1,35,406·19	47	22,963	0 2 8
Difference ...	—45,766·07	+2,512	—8	—45,766·07	+10	+193	+0 2 6·4

46. This party was employed throughout the year in Kolábá, and completed the organization of that district.

47. The Divisional Officer, referring to the comparative slowness of the work last season, ascribes it to the greater difficulty of the country and of obtaining daily labour, which had to be procured by the month, and lastly, to sickness of the members of the permanent establishment who all suffered from fever.

48. The character of the forest examined was similar to that organised during the previous season, and for which a plan of working was submitted for the sanction of Government with my No. 5309, dated 13th December, 1894. The work last season was carried out on the same lines, and the proposed plan of working the forests has been submitted by the Divisional Officer and will shortly be in the hands of Government.

49. The cost of the preparation of plans for Kolábá has amounted to Rs. 46,119, and that for Kanara to Rs. 1,56,707 up to date.

50. The total area for which complete *data* were collected, comprised 413,856 acres, and the average cost per acre came to 7 annas and 10 pies. Complete working-plans have been submitted for 364,257 acres of this area.

II.—WORKING OF THE YEAR.

(*a*).—Communications and Buildings.

51. Form No. 51, appended, shows details of works executed during the year under report.

52. "Roads and bridges" cost Rs. 1,845, and buildings, &c., Rs. 4,754.

53. In the Northern Division of Kanara, a sum of Rs. 304 was expended on making new cart-tracks, and Rs. 130 on repairing old tracks. 4 watch-houses and 3 wells were newly built for Rs. 2,150, and Rs. 294 were expended in repairing existing buildings.

54. In the Central Division of Kanara, Rs. 631 were laid out on road-repairs, and Rs. 745 on repairs, &c., to Forest-buildings.

55. In the Southern Division of Kanara, repairs to buildings cost Rs. 482, and, in Belgaum Rs. 132. The Halshi-Nágargáli forest-road was repaired at a cost of Rs. 543.

56. The Dharwar and Kolábá depôt-and guard-houses were repaired for Rs. 180.

(*b*).—Protection of Forests from Injury.

(*1*).—*General Protection and Breaches of Forest Law.*

57. The following table shows the number of prosecutions and breaches of forest rules during the years 1893-94 and 1894-95 :—

Division.	Cases of the year 1893-94.							Cases of the year 1894-95.							Percentage of failures.	
	Pending in Court on 1st July 1893.	Taken into Court during the year.	Total.	Disposed of by Magistrates during the year. Convictions.	Acquittals.	Total.	Pending in Court on 30th June 1894.	Pending in Court on 1st July 1894.	Taken into Court during the year.	Total.	Disposed of by Magistrates during the year. Convictions.	Acquittals.	Total.	Pending in Court on 30th June 1895.	1893-94.	1894-95.
Northern Division, Kanara ...	3	102	105	32	73	105	...	...	55	55	19	17	36	19	69	47·9
Central Division, Kanara... ...	...	25	25	15	6	21	4	4	12	16	10	6	16	...	24	37
Southern Division, Kanara ...	...	36	36	31	3	34	2	2	12	14	8	5	13	1	8	38·5
Belgaum Division	6	26	32	26	5	31	1	1	31	32	21	8	29	3	15	27
Dharwar do.	2	17	19	12	5	17	2	2	14	16	8	8	16	...	26	50
Bijápur do.	...	10	10	10	...	10	...	...	22	22	21	1	22	...	...	4·5
Kolábá do.	4	287	291	187	33	220	71	71	207	278	238	25	263	15	11	9·5
Ratnagiri do.	1	62	63	43	18	61	2	2	11	13	10	2	12	1	28	16·6
Total ...	16	565	581	356	143	499	82	82	364	446	335	72	407	39	24·	17·7

Northern Division of Kánara.

58. The decrease (47) in the number of magisterial cases for 1894-95, was due to the fact that in 1893-94 an unusually large number of people had to be prosecuted for theft near the town of Karwar, and these prosecutions had a beneficial effect.

59. Of the 55 cases taken into Court, 22 were for illegal *kumri*-cultivation (18 in Súpá and 4 in Karwar).

60. In the Central Division of Kanara, the percentage was 37 against 24 of 1893-94, but the number of prosecutions decreased from 25 in 1893-94, to 12 in 1894-95. The Divisional Forest-Officer gives no explanation for the decrease. He remarks that the number of cases is so small that the percentage of failures, as compared with other years, is not a fair criterion of the degree of care exercised in bringing cases before the Courts.

61. The decrease in the number of cases is doubtless due to the leniency enjoined by Government in their Resolution No. 7907 dated 6th October, 1892. The total number of cases of all kinds has decreased in the Central Division, from 31 in 1893-94, to 25 in 1894-95, and a relatively greater number has been compounded. The Collector remarks, in regard to the offences in this division, that "the very small number of such cases shows with what leniency and consideration the forest-officers enforce the Act, though, no doubt, if there were larger establishments able to do more patrolling, a much larger number of petty offences would be discovered, and some of these it would certainly be desirable to have punished."

62. In the Southern Division of Kanara, the number also decreased from 36 to 12. Ten of these cases occurred in Siddápúr, and out of the nine disposed of in that range, conviction was obtained in four, all of which were for the illicit cutting of timber. In the five cases in which conviction failed, three were for cutting *soppu* of the reserved kinds of trees and they were let off on the ground that they were trivial offences. Two were let off for want of sufficient evidence.

63. The percentage of failures was 38 against 8 in 1893-94.

64. The decrease in the number of cases is partly balanced by the increase in the number of compoundings (14). The decrease in the number of cases may be attributed to the desire on the part of the Divisional Officer to carry out the lenient policy of Government.

65. In Belgaum, the number of cases increased from 26 to 31, and the percentage of failure from 15 to 27. The failures were mostly in Khánápúr, where, of 9 cases, 5 were dismissed. In most cases of failure the result is reported to be due to the dishonesty of witnesses who stated one thing before the Range-Officer, but quite the opposite before Magistrates. Of the 31 cases taken before Magistrates, 27 were for misappropriation of timber and minor produce, 2 for illicit grazing, and 2 for illegal cultivation in forests.

66. In Dharwar, there were 14 cases against 17 in 1893-94, and 2 were pending trial at the commencement of the year. Of the 16 cases disposed of by Magistrates, only 8 were successful, the percentage of failures being 50, against 26 in the previous year. The Divisional Officer is unable to explain the cause of this increased percentage.

67. In Bijápúr, the number of cases rose from 10 to 22, and nearly all were for theft of wood. Only in one case were the offenders acquitted, a fact which tends to show that the Divisional Officer exercised good judgment in selecting cases for trial. The cause of the increase in the number is not apparent.

68. In Kolábá, the number fell from 287 to 207, and failures were also slightly less. The decrease in the number of cases was partly owing to the circumstance that an unusually large number of cases (126) of illicit *dalhi* cultivation was taken into Court in 1893-94, but the Divisional Officer attributes it, to a less extent, to slackness of the establishment. Of the 263 cases disposed of, only 25 were unsuccessful.

69. Of the 13 cases—11 of the year under report and 2 of the preceding one—disposed of by Magistrates in Ratnagiri, 2 were dismissed. Of these two, one related to the theft of wood in *khóti*-land. All, except one of these cases, were of small importance, and were settled by fines. The remaining one, in which the *khóts* of Bándh-Tivre were accused of having obstructed the forest-officers in the cutting of trees in *dhárá*-land, was dismissed on the ground that the cutting of trees did not form part of the lawful authority of forest-officers.

70. Details of cases of misappropriation of timber and other minor produce, as required by Government Resolution No. 7232 dated 12th September, 1892, are given in Appendix 52 A.

71. Appendix 52 B shows details of cases compounded under section 67 of the Forest-Act, during the year under report.

72. The following gives the cases dealt with under the section in each division for 1893-94 and 1894-95:—

Division.	1893-94.				1894-95.			
	Total number of cases disposed of.	Number of cases commuted.	Number of cases discharged.	Amount of compensation recovered.	Total number of cases disposed of.	Number of cases commuted.	Number of cases discharged.	Amount of compensation recovered.
				Rs.				Rs.
Northern Division, Kanara ...	33	33	...	409	98	98	...	504
Central do. ...	7	6	1	17	13	13	...	32
Southern do. ...	1	1	...	9	15	15	...	61
Belgaum Division	86	84	2	36	115	115	...	147
Dharwar do.	35	5	30	1	11	11	...	12
Bijápúr do.	12	12	...	15	22	22	...	20
Kolábá do.	181	181	...	618	122	122	...	788
Ratnagiri do.	39	39	...	71	20	20	...	7
Total ...	394	361	33	1,176	416	416	...	1,571

73. The increase (55) in the number of cases compounded, occurs mostly in Northern and Southern Kanara and Belgaum. In the Súpá sub-division (Northern Kanara), the number rose from 4 to 64, and the increase was due to the sudden outbreak of *Kumri* referred to in paragraph 59. In Southern Kanara, cases of illicit cutting of *Soppu* were compounded during the year while in the preceding year they were disposed of by the sale or destruction of the produce.

74. In Belgaum, where the number rose from 84 to 115, a large number of offences of timber-cutting was compounded.

75. In Kolábá, the number fell from 181 to 122, and this fall is due to the occurrence of fewer cases of unauthorized cultivation by wild tribes. The amount of compensation recovered was, however, larger by Rs. 170. In three of the cases sums over Rs. 50 were levied. In these cases there were no less than 51 offenders who were fined Rs. 264.

76. Appendix 52 shows the number of cases compounded and taken into Court, during the year under report. The following table gives the figures for the past two years:—

Division.	Taken into Court.		Compounded under Section 67.		Total number of cases.	
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.
Northern Division, Kanara ...	102	55	33	98	135	153
Central do. ...	25	12	6	13	31	25
Southern do. ...	36	12	1	15	37	27
Belgaum Division	26	31	84	115	110	146
Dharwar do.	17	14	5	11	22	25
Bijápúr do.	10	22	12	22	22	44
Kolábá do.	287	207	181	122	468	329
Ratnagiri do.	62	11	39	20	101	31
Total ...	565	364	361	416	926	780

77. The total number of offences detected in the Circle, decreased by 146, while the number compounded, increased by 55, facts which appear to indicate that on the whole greater leniency was displayed towards offenders. I must say that Divisional Officers, who report particulars of all cases to me, appear to me to have exercised their powers under section 67 of the Forest Act with great consideration, and I have certainly been unable to detect any tendency to harshness in their dealings under that section. All Collectors, too, with one exception, who have referred to the subject in their forwarding memoranda, consider that Divisional Officers have worked this section with care and judgment.

78. The Collector of Bijápúr alone offers a qualified dissent from this opinion. In Bijápúr, the number of compoundings rose from 12 to 22, and the Collector is of opinion that "there appears ground for apprehension that the orders of Government regarding the application of the section have not been strictly followed. In three of the cases, the amount of compensation recovered was only 2 annas each; and in all these cases the amount of compensation was equal to the estimated value of the damage to the forests. In future, however, the proceedings under that section will be subjected to closer supervision in accordance with the orders issued in Government Resolution No. 4516, dated 18th June, 1895."

79. The sums levied naturally seem paltry to a new-comer. But, in forestry, the word "valuable" is a very relative term, and depends on circumstances. In Bijápúr, if a few miserable sticks, used in the construction of the slenderest fabrics be excepted, the forest consists of scrub fit for nothing but firewood. The produce (with the exception of *cassia*, the bark of which is used in tanning) is removed by head-loads or animal-loads for sale as firewood in the bazárs, and a head-load of such stuff is worth only a few annas. If, therefore, no notice is taken of the theft of a head-load of this description, no notice can be taken of the theft of, practically, the whole forest. A man, who is caught perhaps in one act of fifty, is warned and let off. When the same individual is again caught in the commission of an offence, it is compounded by the payment of the value of the wood as estimated by a *panch*, whose sympathies are entirely on the side of the thief, who then goes off to the nearest bazár and sells his load for its real value. In my opinion, these cases in Bijápúr have been extremely leniently dealt with, in fact too leniently. To accept only the value of the wood as estimated by an indulgent *panch*, is really to offer a premium on theft, in a district, moreover, which is extremely badly off for wood, and in which the protection of the remnants of the forest is of very great importance to agriculturists as well as to the inhabitants, generally.

80. A large number of cases was let off with simple warning. There were 101 such cases in Kolábá, and altogether 363 have been reported.

(2).—*Protection from Fire.*

81. The following table shows the results reported for each Division:—

Division.	Area in Square Miles.			Percentage of failures to area attempted.	Cost.		Proportion of area under fire-protection to total area of Reserves.
	Attempted.	Failures.	Protected.		Per square mile protected.	Per acre protected.	
					Rs.	Pies.	
Northern Division of Kanara	567·05	5·23	561·82	·92	21·87	6·5	...
Central Division of Kanara	275·43	37·79	237·64	13·72	24·07	7·2	...
Southern Division of Kanara	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Belgaum Division ...	308·43	8·85	299·58	2·8	10	3	...
Dharwar do. ...	56·22	8·23	47·99	14·16	12·12	3·6	...
Bijápúr do. ...	104·32	5·28	99·04	5·06	4·6	1·4	...
Kolábá do. ...	100·57	1·64	98·93	·01	6·7	2·01	...
Ratnagiri do. ...	20·08	·00	20·08	·00	0·81	·25	...
Total in 1894-95 ...	1,432·10	67·02	1,365·08	4·68	16·69	5·00	50·77
Total in 1893-94 ...	1,320·	26·	1,294·	1·97	15·62	4·68	53·41
Increase or Decrease in 1894-95	+112	+41	+71	+2·71	+1·07	+0·32	—2·64

82. A larger area was firetraced in every division excepting Bijápúr. The cost per square mile increased from Rs. 15·62 to Rs. 16·69 owing to the long drought. The failures reported also increased 2·71 per cent.

83. The comparative failure of the operations is partly ascribed to incendiarism and partly to the long drought, which increased the danger of accidental fire. It is quite impossible to say positively, in any case, to which of the two causes a fire should be ascribed, unless, indeed, an incendiary has been detected in the very act—an extremely rare occurrence. Where, however, the same jungles